



April 2012

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a clinical instructor at the University of Akron. We are partnering with the Woodrow Wilson Foundation to develop STEM professionals to become high school teachers in high needs environments. I have worked with all the Woodrow Wilson fellows in the field at both Akron Public Schools and Canton Public Schools over the entire 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Chad Ostrowski is a wonderful example of a person who has changed his career path with a passion to educate children.

Mr. Ostrowski has spent the last year integrating himself into the school culture at Hartford Middle School in Canton, Ohio. He is an integral part of Mrs. Gillespie's 7th grade Life Science class. Through this program, Mr. Ostrowski has spent the entire school year in the classroom. He has had the opportunity to assist Mrs. Gillespie set up her classroom and greet the students on the first day, see the students off on the last day and work with them every day in between.

Mr. Ostrowski is self-motivated and well prepared for every class. He differentiates his lessons with a variety of teaching strategies to reach his students. I have observed him create and teach standards-based activities, such as a kinesthetic activity to teach about the phases of mitosis or allowing the students to create a capstone project with a media source (video, song, powerpoint, etc.) to demonstrate their knowledge of plants, scientific method, characteristics of life or cell organelles. Mr. Ostrowski is always open to feedback and there have been a number of occasions where a topic we have discussed has been implemented by my next visit.

Mr. Ostrowski is a very thoughtful educator, willing to go the extra mile for his students. It is with great pleasure and confidence that I recommend Mr. Chad Ostrowski for any position you may have.

Please feel free to further contact me if necessary.

Sincerely,

*Karen B. Plaster*

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